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**A Chicago Tribune
publication**

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AVED

WELL PLAYED,

2011

FOR THE RECORD, REDEYE'S SOUND BOARD PRESENTS ITS PUMPED-UP PICKS 18-19

BY MARGARET SMITH | METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT, DRINK, DO, IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

EAT

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Fish Bar

2956 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-687-8177

Feeling charitable? Help those in need by participating in this seafood spot's new special, Soup for the Soul. Every Wednesday the restaurant sells cups of soup for \$5, available to eat in the restaurant or take home. All profits from soup sales go to Inspiration Cafe, an Uptown nonprofit that helps the poor and homeless in Chicago. 5-6:30 p.m. \$5

AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

Eleaven Food Company

54 E. Ontario St. 312-202-0899

Food gets festive at the River North bakery and deli, which started its "e.leaven Days of Christmas" on Tuesday. The restaurant offers a different special each day for \$11 until Dec. 23. Grab Wednesday's chicken fajita salad lunch, a south-of-the-border-inspired dish with grilled peppers, onions, chipotle-marinated chicken, lemon vinaigrette and a fried flour tortilla. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. \$11.

DRINK

BOOZE AND PREVIEWS

Bar Deville

701 N. Damen Ave. 312-929-2349

Hankering for a sneak peek of Trenchermen, the Wicker Park restaurant from chefs and brothers Michael Sheerin (Blackbird) and Patrick Sheerin (The Signature Room) opening in early 2012? Enter through Bar Deville's back door for the Trenchermen Beverage Salon pop-up event, where the restaurant's beverage director, Tona Palomino, shows off a few drinks for \$7 each. Choices include a celery gin and tonic or a candy cane-infused gin concoction. 9 p.m. No cover.

A VINE TIME

Sheffield's

3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989

Finish off your hump day at Vinejoy Sessions 3, a monthly wine tasting from local wine company Vinejoy. Enjoy \$5 glasses while munching on small snacks or buy discounted bottles to take home for later. Also includes an acoustic open mic session and special DJ set. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Prices vary.

DO



LOCAL LEGENDS

Stage 773

1225 W. Belmont Ave. 773-327-5252

Listen to some tall tales at Here's the Story, a monthly storytelling showcase and competition. December's guests include **Rohina Malik**, Shannon Cason, Jennifer Bosworth, Bryan Bowden and Caitlen Bergh. Want to compete? Sign-up begins when doors open. 7:30 p.m.



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THE HOLIDAY TRAIN

Hey, Red Line riders—the CTA Holiday Train graces your tracks this afternoon. Follow @cta on Twitter to find out when and where.

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A LOOK AT THE DATA

Here's a snapshot of The Greenlining Institute's report. It's based on the American National Election Panel Survey by the University of Michigan and Stanford University. That survey focused on the black/white gap, which is why there is not a multi-ethnic analysis here. Numbers are rounded and may not equal 100.

How much do blacks make now compared to whites?

BLACK AMERICANS

MORE
2

LESS
67

SAME
29

WHITE AMERICANS

MORE
3

LESS
37

SAME
59

How does the U.S. government treat blacks compared to whites?

BLACK AMERICANS

BETTER
1

WORSE
56

SAME
63

WHITE AMERICANS

BETTER
28

WORSE
9

SAME
63

Are blacks in better or worse health compared to whites now?

BLACK AMERICANS

BETTER
3

WORSE
53

SAME
44

WHITE AMERICANS

BETTER
4

WORSE
34

SAME
62

IS DISCRIMINATION DEAD?

CNN

A study that examines three years of opinion survey data says that black and white Americans still are miles apart regarding their perceptions of equality or inequality among blacks and whites. It identifies racial bias among whites as a potential reason for that difference in perception.

"Post-Racial? Americans and Race in the Age of Obama," released Monday by the non-profit Greenlining Institute, found a link be-

tween white survey respondents' perception of blacks and whether they believed discrimination to be a major problem in today's society.

When asked how much discrimination currently exists in America, 56 percent of black respondents said there was "a lot." Among Latinos, 27 percent gave that answer. About the same amount—26 percent—of respondents who reported their race as "other" said that. But only 16 percent of white respondents said they thought "a lot" of discrimination existed

in today's America. The majority of white respondents said there either was "some" (44.4 percent) or "a little" (about 40 percent) discrimination.

The Greenlining Institute study analyzed data from the American National Election Panel Survey (ANES) conducted by the University of Michigan and Stanford University, as well as census data. The ANES researchers spoke with a representative sample of about 1,800 Americans on 12 occasions between

January 2008 and July 2010. Greenlining is a nonprofit policy and leadership institute whose stated goal is to work for economic and racial equality.

"Americans are diversifying and if we want to keep ahead and keep America going forward, we have to acknowledge these disparities. If we don't, it makes it hard to tackle them," said Daniel Byrd, the Greenlining Institute's research director and the study's primary author.



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'Glee' needs more than Chewbacca



Jason Steele

» redeye@tribune.com

Let's take the TV time machine all the way back to May 19, 2009, when Fox debuted a weird musical show about randy high school outcasts coming together to form a glee club.

Those were the days. Even though "Glee" was a show about kids, it was not a show with kiddie themes. The stories addressed child

molestation, a teacher planting drugs in a student's locker, homosexuality, disabilities, teen pregnancy, bullying—all set to a soundtrack of Journey songs. And that was just the pilot!

If you were like me, you downloaded the episode and watched it a dozen times over the summer in anticipation of its fall debut. During the first season, the show definitely lived up to the hype by delivering cutting-edge storylines, adult themes, great musical numbers and just a lot of fun.

Then something started to shift. "Glee" went from a totally unique water-cooler-talk show of "Did you see what Kurt was wearing?" "That cover of a Katy Perry song was awesome!" and "Jane Lynch's Sue is a total character!" to a less-than-stellar victim of its own success. "Ugh, did you see what Kurt was wearing?" "Egads! Another cover of a Katy Perry song?" and "Sue Sylvester has become a complete caricature."

I know it's trendy right now to bag on "Glee," but the numbers don't lie. Viewership is down 23 percent this season from 2010, according to Nielsen. And those of us who are

complaining now do it because we want our old, sexy, funny, gay friend back.

Why did so many people stop watching? The show became too aware of its own success and started to favor style over substance. Now it suffers from "Will & Grace" syndrome, sacrificing good storytelling for big guest stars. (Chewbacca on Tuesday night's Christmas episode? Really, "Glee"? Not that "Glee" ever did anything subtly, but it used to do it with heart.

Regardless of how nonsensical a storyline might have been, "Glee" always did a great job with the song performances. But this season's songs have mostly been unmemorable (way too much Broadway—and this coming from a guy who loves showtunes). In fact, barely any Season 3 songs have been in the iTunes Top 10.

Now it seems almost every character is acting out-of-character: Rachel getting herself suspended. Kurt, Blaine and Trouty Mouth transferring in and out of schools only out of convenience for the scripts. Sue is stuck in a repetitive loop. Brittany S. Pierce has gone from lovable dimwit to complete idiot. And Quinn is just all over the map. Plus, the show struck gold with The Warblers, and they've all but disbanded.

Granted, there still are things that work, and for every ridiculous Quinn/Shelby/Puck triangle there is a heartbreaking Santana-coming-out storyline.

I could go on and on about how the show has fallen from grace, but the truth is it's still a lot more entertaining and edgy than most shows—it's just been downgraded from "watch it live" Tuesday to "watch it when I get around to it"—which usually is no later than Wednesday.

JASON STEELE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



TWEET INDEX

HOT RIGHT NOW

Let it 'Rock'

Tom Cruise signs one boob and everyone's gotta tweet about it. Yep, the trailer for "Rock of Ages" is out. Here's what else was trending on Twitter on Tuesday in Chicago.



'Rock of Ages'

The '80s just won't die



#WholsHigher-ThanSnoop

Who started this TT?



Derek Jeter

Can we get an autograph too?



No regrets

Taking stock of 2011

BIG TALKERS

What are your tips for staying sane on the CTA during the holidays? After Tuesday's Going Public column about holiday transit, that's what we asked readers on Facebook. Here are some of the responses.

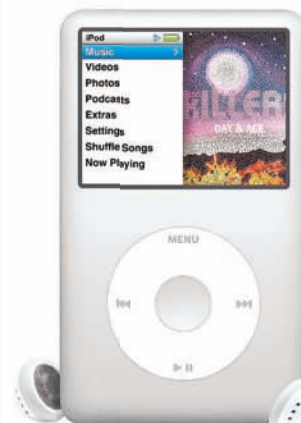


A flask
—Alyssa Flisiak

I deal with getting on the 147 on mich by having a few drinks at a holiday event.
—Melanie Christy

Books. Noise-canceling headphones. And a gin & tonic (or two or three or four) prior to any CTA transit endeavor.
—Mallory Perna

Compassion. Understanding. Patience. 'Tis the season. :)
—Deborah Pogue



Headphones and a fully charged iPod.
—Mikal Elyse

Listen to my music but keep a eye out for the "Grinches"....
—Dana Hardin



TRENDING ALERT



Need a new playlist for the weekend? Check out RedEye's favorite albums of 2011 (story on Pages 18-19) and listen to all of the best tracks of the year on RedEye's Spotify at spoti.fi/rebest2011.

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THURSDAY
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FRIDAY
3526
It's not coming

3 FOR ALL

MAYOR'S TALKING POINTS

Mayor Emanuel on Tuesday weighed in on several city developments, including the ban of synthetic marijuana, which takes effect Wednesday, safety in schools and the coming G8 and NATO meetings this spring.

ON BAN OF FAKE POT

I support this new city ordinance which would make it unlawful for any business to sell or offer the sale of any synthetic marijuana in the city of Chicago.”
—In a statement

ON SCHOOLS

It's making sure that when a child goes to school and comes home from school they can think of their studies, not their safety, and that while in school, if there's a sense of fear of safety, that's one of the reasons that drive kids as it relates to truancy or absenteeism.”
—Reported as saying by the Tribune

ON G8, NATO

If there's an active inconvenience, I'll say I'm sorry.”
—Reported as saying by the Tribune



Snowy owls—including this one spotted near Montrose Harbor last week—have been turning up across the area this winter. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

‘Potter’ bird invasion

Snowy owls descending on Chicago in search of one thing: food

Chicago Tribune

Snowy owls are arriving in the Chicago area in far greater numbers than usual this winter, but the dramatic presence of a bird made famous in the “Harry Potter” movies has nothing to do with magic and everything to do with finding a good meal.

“The owls are here for only one reason: food,” said Paul Kerlinger, a New Jersey-based expert who has studied the species throughout the country.

Along the shores of Lake Michigan where the birds seem to be showing up almost daily, that means an abundance of tasty ducks, large flocks of roosting gulls and in Chicago itself, rats—plenty of rats.

WHAT ARE THEY EATING?

The owls depend mostly on lemmings and voles—small rodents—to feed themselves and their young in the Arctic. In winter, when there's a lot of snow, the owls can't get to the lemmings. So they must fly to find food elsewhere.

“The snowy owl breeds in Arctic regions, raising young in the remote tundra wilderness. The species, however, is staging an invasion in a broad swath across the northern United States, from Washington to Illinois to Maine, experts say.

One was even found as far south as Honolulu,

the first time it's been seen in Hawaii.

“In most years, there are maybe only one or two snowy owls seen all winter from October through March in Illinois,” said Matthew Cvetas, a longtime birder from Evanston.

By the end of last month, owls had been spotted at Montrose Point and Promontory Point in Chicago, in Winthrop Harbor and in Waukegan.

More are expected, with the prospects so promising, and the invasion could rival or exceed the last great documented arrival that occurred between November 1996 and the following March, when 73 of these visitors from the far north were reported in the state, records show.



THE DIGIT

\$1.595 M

R. Kelly (above) has placed his 22,000-square-foot mansion in south suburban Olympia Fields on the market for \$1.595 million. **TRIBUNE**

Blago recommended for low-security prison

Chicago Tribune

A federal judge on Tuesday agreed to recommend that Rod Blagojevich serve his 14-year prison sentence at a low-security federal prison in Littleton, Colo.

U.S. District Judge James Zagel also agreed to extend the former governor's surrender date to March 15 unless he is able to sell his Ravenswood Manor residence before then. Last week, the judge had ordered Blagojevich to report to prison Feb. 16. Blagojevich was convicted last week on federal corruption charges, including that he tried to sell or trade for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by then-President-elect Obama.

Although Blagojevich would rather have been sent to a minimum-security prison camp, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons usually will not consider that option for defendants sentenced to 10 or more years in prison, said Blagojevich's attorney, Sheldon Sorosky.

"It's kind of like applying to school," Sorosky said of deciding to request a low-security facility instead of a camp. "If the kid who's got all C's asks to go to Harvard, he's probably not going to get in."

Prison camps are the lowest security in the federal prison system and generally feature unsecured perimeters and dormitory-style living. The nearest prison camp to Chicago is in Oxford, Wis.

Low-security facilities, meanwhile, have secured perimeters, but instead of prison cells, they usually have dormitory living facilities, according to the Bureau of Prisons. The low-security facility in Littleton—officially known as the Federal Correctional Institution Englewood—is located 15 miles southwest of Denver, according to the Bureau of Prisons website.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons will make any final decision on where Blagojevich will be incarcerated.



Sheldon Sorosky
ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE



Hugh Hefner
TRIBUNE FILE

Playboy moving operations to L.A.

After nearly 60 years as a Chicago-based institution, Playboy is moving its editorial operations out west. Executives confirmed that the magazine's editorial, art and photo departments will be based out of the company's L.A. office by May.

Hugh Hefner hinted at the magazine's relocation more than a year ago, when asked about the possibility of closing the Chicago offices in an October 2010 interview with RedEye.

"I think we're probably going to be doing that out of economic concerns, yes," Hefner said then. "We will be probably consolidating on the West Coast."

Girl stable after lighter burns

A 6-year-old Chicago girl who suffered second-degree burns after she lit her shirt on fire while playing with a lighter was resting in stable condition Tuesday, said a doctor at Stroger Hospital, where the girl is being treated.

3 questioned in River North crashes

Three people were being questioned Tuesday after allegedly stealing a Lexus sport-utility vehicle, prompting a police pursuit and at least two crashes in River North.

Bank robbery in Old Town

A bank was robbed Tuesday afternoon in Old Town and federal authorities have released a surveillance photo of the suspect. No one was hurt when the robber entered the Chase Bank branch in the 1700 block of North Wells and robbed it.

Utilities report 'very small' breach

Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas suffered a security breach that compromised a "very small" amount of its customers' information, the utilities said. Affected customers received a telephone call and letter, the utilities said. **TRIBUNE**

IN FOCUS

Chicago's 'social' airport

Chicago isn't quite the Second City when it comes to social travelers. O'Hare placed third in a survey released Tuesday by Facebook, which tallied the number of social media check-ins at major airports. Midway did not make the list of the world's 25 most-social airports. The Top 5:

- » Los Angeles International Airport
- » Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- » O'Hare (right)
- » San Francisco International Airport
- » Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport



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GETTY IMAGES

Sandusky vows to fight child sex abuse charges

1 Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky waived his right to a preliminary hearing Tuesday, setting the stage for a trial on 50 counts of child sexual abuse.

The announcement came moments after the former Nittany Lions coach entered a courtroom filled with onlookers and journalists. Sandusky, 67, was accompanied by two attorneys, 20 supporters and his wife, Dottie.

As he left the courtroom, Sandusky said he "would stay the course, to fight for four quarters and await the opportunity to present our side."

'Muslim' ads sold out, thanks to Simmons

2 Ad time for Sunday's "All-American Muslim" episode apparently is sold out, despite Lowe's decision to pull its commercials from the TLC reality series, a network spokeswoman said. Hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons said he would buy up any unsold commercial time on the show to promote his prepaid Visa "Rush Card."

5 killed in grenade, gun attack in Belgium

3 A grenade and gun attack in Liege, Belgium, left five people dead, including the attacker, and 119 wounded Tuesday, authorities said. Some 52 people were treated for injuries by medics at a field hospital set up near the scene, the prosecutor said, while others went to hospitals in the area.

Facebook rolls out suicide prevention tool

Facebook launched a new suicide prevention tool Tuesday, giving users a direct link to an online chat with counselors who can help, the company said. The new tool gives people who may not be comfortable picking up the phone a direct avenue to seek help.



Panel: Ban texts, calls behind wheel

4 **WASHINGTON** U.S. safety investigators called Tuesday for a nationwide ban on texting and cellphone use while driving, a prohibition that would include certain applications of hands-free technology becoming more common in new cars.

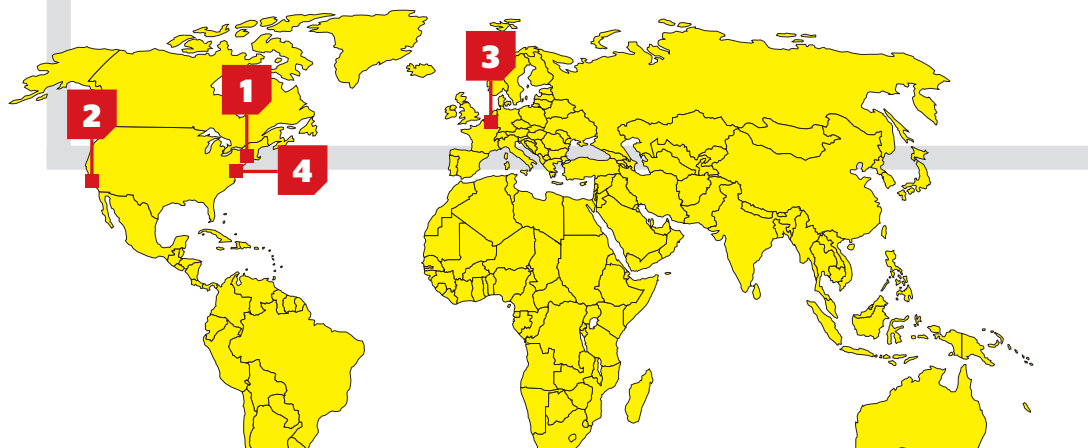
The National Transportation Safety Board recommendation covers portable devices only but still goes beyond measures proposed or imposed to date by regulators and states, most of which already ban texting while behind the wheel.

"When it comes to using electronic devices, it may seem like it's a quick call or a quick text

or a tweet, but accidents happen in the blink of an eye," NTSB Chairwoman Deborah Hersman said. "No emails, no texts, no calls. It's worth a human life."

More than 3,000 people were killed in distracted driving crashes in the U.S. in 2010, according to Transportation Department figures.

Most motorists participating in a Transportation Department survey released last week acknowledged few situations in which they would not use a cellphone or text while behind the wheel—although they supported measures to curb the practice.



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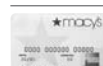
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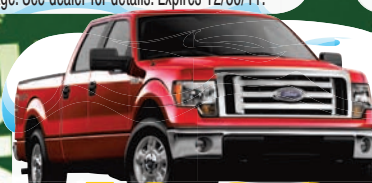
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2003 Oldsmobile Alero #P16029, Red, 2 Dr, CD, Low Miles
2005 Toyota Tacoma #11717B, Auto, Silver, Clean, Ready
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2008 Dodge Caliber #47600A, Silver, CD, Loaded, Clean
2007 Mazda 3 #XP16113, Roof, CD, Auto
2006 Ford Focus ZX5 #P16206, Gray, CD, Very Nice, Auto
2008 Ford Escape XLT #47648A, Moonroof, 4Cyl., Auto
2006 Ford Fusion #46934A, Loaded, Silver, Remote Start
2004 Chevrolet HD Pick Up #47726A, 2500, Cap, Liner, White, V8, Auto
2008 Ford Escape XLT #47420A, 4x4, Gray, Auto, Pwr
2007 Dodge Charger #11567A, V6, CD, Alloys, Gray
2010 Dodge Avenger #11651A, Blue, Auto, CD, Pwr

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2007 Dodge Charger #P15936, Black, Alloys, V6
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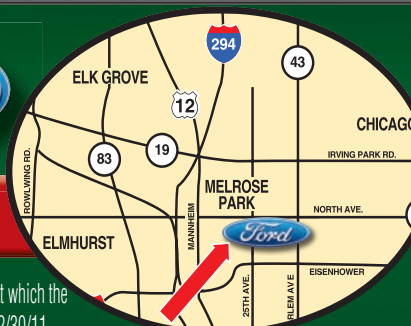
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THEN AND NOW

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE THE NBA SEASON FINALLY KICKS INTO GEAR

RedEye

We don't blame you if you can't recall much about the NBA lockout. Mainly it was a bunch of guys arguing about how to divide a huge sum of money. Booorrring. But don't worry, soon we'll see everything we love about pro hoops; the Bulls open the pre-season Friday and the regular season Dec. 25. In the meantime, we'll get you up to speed on the NBA pre- and post-lockout.

THEN

The Bulls amassed the most wins in the 2010-11 regular season (62) before losing Miami in the Eastern Conference finals (right). Derrick Rose looked like he needed help in the scoring department.

NOW

The roster hasn't changed much, but if the buzz is true, three-time All-Star shooting guard Richard Hamilton is poised to join the Bulls on Wednesday. Could he put them over the top?

THEN

Four games in five nights was considered a super busy week for an NBA team. You also would never see teams play back-to-back-to-back games.

NOW

The Bulls play on three consecutive nights only once this season. But to pack 66 games into four months, playing five games in seven nights will be almost routine. Hope the Bulls are in shape!



NOW

The "Turkish Hammer" says he's good to go. "I don't have any pain," Asik told the Tribune recently. "I have no problems during practice."

THEN

The Bulls dealt with injuries all season, including the broken leg that center Omer Asik (left) suffered in the playoffs.

THEN

New Orleans guard Chris Paul and Orlando center Dwight Howard lifted their respective teams to the playoffs.

NOW

If your head hurts, it's likely because you've heard all the trade rumors surrounding these two. Both players are staying put for now. That's bound to change—just don't hold your breath for the Bulls to make a deal.

THEN

The Miami Heat were by far the most despised team in the league. A raucous cheer went up when Dallas beat them for the NBA title in June.

NOW

The Heat STILL are the most despised team in the league. Thank goodness we were spared the cheesy, over-the-top preseason celebration this time.



CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

THE DIGIT

36

That's the number of games the Bulls will play on national TV. Five games will air on ABC, 10 each on ESPN and WGN America, seven on TNT and four on NBA-TV.

BULLS

ADVENT CALENDAR



**DEC
14**

The countdown has begun, Bulls fans.

Today is Dec. 14; the Bulls open their season Dec. 25, so what better way to count down than with a Christmas-style Bulls advent calendar?

Today's gift: Brian Scalabrine! The Bench Mob wouldn't be the same without him. See the video version of our advent calendar at redeyesportsguy.tumblr.com.

THE 2011-12 VIRTUAL BULLS Bulls 83, Atlanta 67

Fans of high-octane offenses might want to look away, but the Bulls keep winning anyway. Their suffocating defense held the Hawks to 27 second-half points in their lopsided home victory. Derrick Rose led a balanced attack with 18 points while Carlos Boozer, Luol Deng and Taj Gibson each pitched in 15 points. Atlanta shot just 39 percent from the field.

Bulls' record: 14-6



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HE'S BACK

The Bulls couldn't live without Brian Scalabrine. And we can't live without you texting "wed" followed by the number next to your fave panelist to 87708.



Georgia Garvey
@ggarvey
RedEye reporter

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Ernest Wilkins
@REmixchicago
Chicago's wingman

TEXT:2



Julie DiCaro
@juliedicar
aerysports.com/a-league-of-her-own

TEXT:3



Soxman
@thesoxman72
Caped White Sox crusader

TEXT:4



Brad Zibung
@the_heckler
Founder, theheckler.com

TEXT:5

1 How can the Bears get over their latest loss?

Realize that if God wanted them to win, he'd have made Caleb Hanie as self-righteous as Tim Tebow.

The same way I did. Whis. Key. (Or "Ky" if you're swagging like that.)

Two words: "Angry Birds."

Time heals all wounds. Unless, of course, Marion Barber stops time again.

They can turn back the clock, prevent Cutler and Forte from getting hurt and win at least two of three.

2 Brent Seabrook played his 500th game Sunday. What's he win?

A Hoveround mobility scooter. After delivering so many hits, he's gonna need it one day.

My undying respect? Christ, 500 is a lot of hockey. It's a lot of anything, really.

A foot rub from his partner in bromance, Duncan Keith.

Endorsement deals with Advil and Icy Hot.

They won the game, so that's cool. Plus he's got a Stanley Cup. And Olympic gold. Oh, and he's only 26.

3 Aramis Ramirez signing with Milwaukee is like ...

... Kim Kardashian's divorce: not as big of a deal as people are acting like it is.

... a great distraction from Braun being on the juice. And I ain't talkin' Ecto Cooler.

... Milwaukee's Polish Sausage deciding to play 3B for the Cubs. Feels wrong.

... your ex-girlfriend dating your enemy. You could be happy or angry.

... a sign that he's destined to play only for crappy NL Central teams.

4 Why has Dwight Howard backed off his trade demand?

He realized if he winds up in Chicago, he'll always be second in our hearts to D-Rose.

Better question: Aren't you happy you're not a Hornets fan right about now? Yikes!

He realized that, by playing in Brooklyn, he'd be subject to the whims of a pregnant Beyonce.

Snooki and The Situation lowered Jersey's appeal.

He finally realized Disney World is in his backyard. It's the most magical place on Earth, Dwight!

5 Welcome Brian Scalabrine back to the Bulls.

"Hi, Brian! Nice to have our redheaded Italian back. (Those don't just grow on trees, you know.)"

"Way to be better than me at basketball, you bench-riding ball of enthusiasm, you!"

"Hmmm? Oh ... hello there. It's, uh, you. Welcome back."

"Do the rumba and the samba ... welcome back to Chi-town, White Mamba!"

There's one spot the Bulls still had open: coach-player. Or is it "clayer"? Either way, Big Scal's got it covered.

You could have slept exactly 8 more minutes ...

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Deal with it

Who needs a lockout to settle labor disputes? Not baseball. MLB owners and players quietly agreed to a new deal recently, and The Associated Press on Tuesday reported some of the finer points. Assuming the owners ratify the contract (the players approved it this week), here are some of the changes and what they really mean. **REDEYE**

CHANGE

Allowing teams from the same division to meet in the playoffs before the league championship series.

What it means: Fans were tired of seeing the Red Sox and Yankees playing in the ALCS all the time. It's not always about you, New York and Boston.

CHANGE

Banning players from betting with illegal bookies on any sport.

What it means: Baseball is doing its best to sidestep a Tim Donaghy-like debacle.

CHANGE

Possible suspensions for intentionally throwing a ball or equipment at non-uniformed personnel with the intention of causing bodily harm.

What it means: Call this the Nyjer Morgan Rule. He was suspended for seven games in 2010 for throwing a ball at a fan, sending the league's lawyers into a tizzy.

CHANGE

Banning players from getting tattoos with corporate logos.

What it means: Freedom of expression is one thing, but we don't need to see "Wal-Mart" on someone's arm every time he steps into the batter's box.



COPS AND JOCKS

Probation for ex-Bull Wallace

Former Bull Ben Wallace (left) has been sentenced to a year of probation on misdemeanor charges of drunken driving and possessing a firearm while under the influence of alcohol. The Detroit center, 37, appeared Tuesday in court in Pontiac,

Mich. He also must perform community service as part of his sentence. Wallace pleaded guilty last month.



THE DIGIT

27

That's how many pounds NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley (left) has lost since joining Weight Watchers. He will appear in an ad campaign for the company beginning Dec. 25.

Tebow's got some MJ in him



Ernest Wilkins

» erwilkins@tribune.com

» [@remixchicago](https://twitter.com/remixchicago)

RANT TIME, y'all!

Escape from New Orleans

OK, so Chris Paul is the new Helen of Troy, apparently.

First, David Stern blows up the Lakers trade in an attempt to regain the swag he lost during the lock-out, the poor New Orleans GM almost jumps off a bridge, the Lakers move

Lamar Odom to Dallas for a pizza puff, New Orleans tries to move Paul to the Clippers and the league wants the '92 NBA All-Star team for him since apparently Chris Paul became better than Larry Bird when I wasn't looking, and now everyone is confused, especially me.

Meanwhile, Derrick Rose is biding his time and releasing dope shoes and Rip Hamilton and his Jason Voorhees mask are on the horizon. Thank God I'm a Bulls fan.

There's something about Timmy

Sweet Mary Lou Retton, that game sucked Sunday. When I wasn't yelling at the screen, I was trying to figure out why everyone doesn't like Tim Tebow. You know, other than the fact that he looks like Forrest Gump and Ogre from "Revenge of the Nerds" had a baby.

My sincere belief is that a lot of the criticism comes from the simple fact he believes he's going to win. Something I keep noticing in this land of ours is that Americans really don't like it when someone's outwardly confident in their abilities. Look at Muhammad Ali, M.J., hell, even Kanye West.

It's one thing to be arrogant—and I AM NOT PUTTING TIM TEBOW IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THE AFOREMENTIONED—but the fact that Tebow seriously believes he can win every game despite his obvious shortcomings pisses people off. That's dangerous (and admirable) thinking.

Now that I've given Tim Tebow that backhanded compliment, I'm going to go commit seppuku. Keep your noses clean until next time.

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2011 BEST MUSIC OF

We can't possibly argue over what is obviously the best music we heard in 2011. Wait, yes we can. RedEye's Sound Board, made up of 10 staff members who fancy themselves music connoisseurs, has named their picks for the year's best albums and songs. Fans of Cults and Adele, you will enjoy the list. **REDEYE STAFF**



FOSTER THE PEOPLE



Foster the People, "Torches"

"Another danceable summer album that's made out of sunshine

and stomping feet. It's like giving the middle finger to winter." —Rex Chekal

"Thank you to Foster the People for providing such an infectious kicker of a party/life/work soundtrack." —Jessica Galliant



Adele, "21"

"Breakups suck, but lucky for us one led to this album. Her soulful voice is unmatched, dripping with heart-break." —Sara Stewart

"America's love affair with Adele is one of the best romantic entanglements of the year, and we all know that 'SNL' sketch about 'Someone Like You' is more true than we want to admit." —Dana Moran



GETTY IMAGES FILE



Cults, self-titled

"With songs like 'Go Outside,' this ruled my summer with one never-ending, barefoot backyard dance party. Plus beer-garitas." —Rex Chekal

"Talk about a stellar debut. This N.Y.-based guy/girl duo hit gold with its first release this summer. It's pop with just enough fuzz and noise to keep it grounded. 'Go Outside' is probably the most well-known track on the album with its syrupy-sweet sing-along lilt." —Emily Van Zandt

"I'm still living happily in the surprisingly creepy Cults commune, listening to perfectly sweet '60s-era pop and making handmade synthesizers." —Mike Rich

GO ONLINE TO **REDEYETCHICAGO.COM** FOR OUR SOUNDBOARD'S FULL LIST OF FAVES. FOR NOW, HERE ARE SOME SONGS TO CHECK OUT:

Radiohead, "Codex"

"What can I say? I'm a huge sucker for slow, sad Radiohead songs."

—Dana Moran

Dirty Beaches, "Lord Knows Best"

"I can't help but picture an angsty, tortured teenage Herman Munster sitting in his basement and crafting this haunting ballad for his beloved Lily Dracula." —Mike Rich

M83, "Midnight City"

"Deep, mysterious, grooving. Also, chock-full of saxophone. That in itself is a win." —Ernest Wilkins

The Joy Formidable, "Whirring"

"All tension, all heart, always a favorite."

—Jessica Galliant

Com Truise, "Slow Peels"

"If Johnny 5 [from 'Short Circuit'] had a baby with rhythm, this is what it would sound like." —Vicky Rodriguez



The Black Keys, "El Camino"

"'El Camino' is proof-positive that with the right producer (Danger Mouse) and the right instincts to just get back to the 'roots,' you can go from White Stripes wannabes to beholders of the best classic rock album of the year." —Jessica Gallart

"One of my biggest regrets of 2011 is that this album didn't come out sooner, but I'm so ready to rock into 2012." —Dana Moran



Bon Iver, self-titled

"Bon Iver has a consistently comforting effect on me. ... This definitely is an album for a late, chilly night." —Dana Moran

"Justin Vernon's lyrics remain somewhere between meaningfully poetic and confusingly elliptical, but the increased density of his band's arrangements serves as the perfect expansion and follow-up to the instant classic 'For Emma, Forever Ago.'" —Matt Pais



Frank Ocean, "Nostalgia, Ultra"

"Frank Ocean's mixtape is the one that I will most associate with 2011. Hands down some of the best lyrics this year—dramatic, dreary, addictive." —Emily Van Zandt

"After this self-released project, he got wooed by everyone from Jay-Z and Kanye West to Rihanna to Beyonce. Not too shabby. Plus, it knocks." —Ernest Wilkins



The Head and the Heart, self-titled

"Dark lyrics mixed with often-sunny music create so many layers on this album I hear something new each time I listen." —Sara Stewart

"Sure, Fleet Foxes and Bon Iver both put out brilliant folk records this year, but all I really wanted to do was hang out with The Head and the Heart." —Mike Rich



The Weeknd, "House of Balloons"

"No other album/mixtape/whatever this year so knocked me out with its command of subject matter and mood, granting us remarkably vivid access to a late-night den of soon-to-be-regret so rich it's as if we really visited. (Glad we didn't, though.)"

—Matt Pais



The Roots, "undun"

"An example of what happens when a band that has done it all starts doing whatever they feel like. Consistently ambitious, it's one of the rare records you have to listen to all the way through."

—Ernest Wilkins



Dream Theater, "A Dramatic Turn of Events"

"Self-indulgent? Maybe. Pretentious? Possibly. The best prog-rock of the year? Definitely."

—Brian Moore



Cut Copy, "Zonoscope"

"Of all the great dance albums released this year, I keep coming back to this Australian group's new wave-inspired tracks."

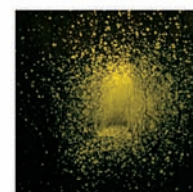
—Emily Van Zandt



Beastie Boys, "Hot Sauce Committee Part Two"

"Like a grilled cheese sandwich, the Boys always deliver the goods, even if they aren't flashy or adorned with the latest musical condiments."

—Brian Moore



The Antlers, "Burst Apart"

"This is what wonder sounds like."

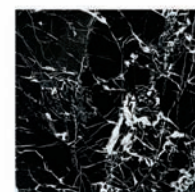
—Vicky Rodriguez



Arctic Monkeys, "Suck It and See"

"The year's best album title—and another smashing success for the Brits, who keep growing but never stop delivering flawless hooks and lyrical treasures."

—Matt Pais



Clams Casino, "Instrumental mixtape"

"Ambient, loud and soft. The soundtrack to a starry night."

—Vicky Rodriguez

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wingman

Little Dragon, "Please Turn"

"Vibey synth sounds and a great dance solo." —Rex Chekal

Beyonce, "Countdown"

"Love song of the year right here, folks." —Emily Van Zandt

Jay-Z and Kanye, "Otis"

"Two mega-rich superstars get together and rap about how much money they have over an Otis Redding sample. That's so hip-hop." —Sara Stewart

Jane's Addiction, "Irresistible Force"

"It's all about the chorus of this spacey tune." —Brian Moore

Library Voices, "Generation Handclap"

"Well-crafted and lyrically clever and blah blah blah. It's simply the catchiest pop song of the year." —Matt Pais

WEDNESDAY'S TOP SHOWS

Josh Caterer

9 p.m. \$12. *Schubas*,
3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.
One Smoking Pope.

Kathryn Calder

9 p.m. \$10. *Double Door*,
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.
Anyone from the New Pornographers
is worth hearing.

The Joy Formidable

8:30 p.m. \$17-\$20. *Metro*,
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7 p.m. Reggie's
Rock Club,
2109 S. State St.
312-949-0121.

IRISH CHRIST- MAS IN AMERICA

9:30 p.m. \$21-\$25.
Old Town School
of Folk Music,
4544 N. Lincoln
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TIM REYNOLDS AND TR3

8 p.m. \$20.
Lincoln Hall, 2424
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FAST FORWARD

TOP 5 SHOWS THROUGH SUNDAY



Wilco 8 p.m. Thu. at *Vic Theatre*,
8 p.m. Fri. at *Metro*, 8 p.m. Sun. at *Lincoln Hall*
Awesome week for the locals.

Morrissey

7 p.m. Sat.
at *Congress Theatre*
Put on your sad face.

I Fight Dragons

7 p.m. Sat. at *Metro*
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fun bands.

The Sea and Cake

10 p.m. Sat.
at *Empty Bottle*
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Northpilot

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**ON SALE 10 A.M.
WEDNESDAY**

* **THE CONGREGATION, THE MOOD, DBP, SCIENTIFIC MAP**, Saturday, Feb. 4 (\$8, 21+) at Martyrs'.

MAGIC BOX, STEEPWATER BAND, CHICAGO FARMER, Saturday, Feb. 11 (\$10, 21+) at Martyrs'.

**ON SALE NOON
FRIDAY**

BEAR IN HEAVEN, Wednesday, April 18 (\$12-\$14, all ages) at Schubas.

DOWN WITH WEBSTER, FREE SOL, Saturday, Feb. 11 (\$10-\$12, 18+) at Schubas.

HOWLER, Thursday, March 8 (\$8-\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

* **EMA**, Saturday, March 10 (\$12, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

MIDNIGHT CONSPIRACY, THE CHAOTIC GOOD, Saturday, Jan. 21 (\$10, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

THIS WILL DESTROY VYOU, Wednesday, Feb. 1 (\$15, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

SCARS ON 45, ANYA MARINA, Friday, Feb. 3 (\$10, 18+) at Schubas.

XV, Friday, Jan. 27 (\$12, 18+) at Schubas.

* **ZOLA JESUS**, Tuesday, Feb. 21 (\$15, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

**ON SALE 10 A.M.
SATURDAY**

* **THE BLACK KEYS, ARCTIC MONKEYS**, Monday, March 19 (\$39-\$59, all ages) at United Center.

THE HEAD AND THE HEART, DREW GROW AND THE PASTORS' WIVES, Thursday, March 8 (\$25, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

* **THE MAGNETIC FIELDS**, Monday,

March 26 (\$32.50, all ages), Tuesday, March 27 (\$32.50, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

IAN MCCULLOCH, Tuesday, March 27, Wednesday, March 28 (\$25, 21+) at Schubas.

ON SALE NOON SATURDAY
AEROPLANE, KID COLOR, Friday, Feb. 3 (\$5-\$13, 21+) at Smart Bar.

DERRICK CARTER, Saturday, Feb. 11 (\$5-\$15, 21+) at Smart Bar.

* **OF MONTREAL, LONEY DEAR, KISHI BASHI**, Wednesday, March 28 (\$23, all ages) at Metro.

PHAROAE MONCH, MASS HYSTERIA, PRIMERIDIAN, DJ INTEL AND SKOR, Saturday, Jan. 14 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

SLUM VILLAGE, Saturday, March 24 (\$20, 21+) at Double Door.

ON SALE NOW

* **FUN.**, Saturday, April 14 (\$18, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

ON SALE NOON SATURDAY

* **CULTS**, Friday, April 20 (\$21, 18+) at Metro.



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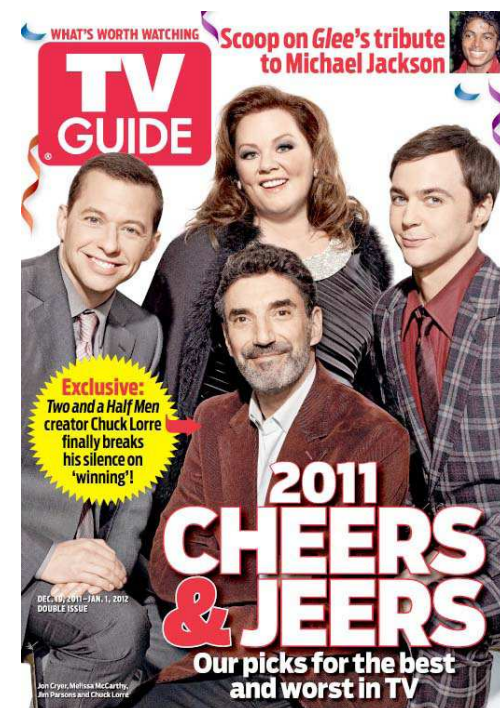
tv

Sheen-gate gets the TV Guide treatment

Charlie Sheen was fired from "Two and A Half Men" because he was so addicted to cocaine that makers of the CBS sitcom feared he might die, co-creator Chuck Lorre told TV Guide Magazine in an extensive interview for the Dec. 15 issue. Lorre, who continues to produce the series with new star Ashton Kutcher, had a lot more to say about what led to Sheen's firing—and the fallout since.

REDEYE, QUOTES FROM TV GUIDE MAGAZINE

“The [studio and the network] chose to make a moral decision as opposed to a financial one. This was not a game. This was drug addiction writ large. This was big-time cocaine, and in his own words, an ‘epic drug run’ that could have ended with either his death or someone else’s.”



"I thought, why not find out if we can do it? If we failed, what have we failed at? Making a sitcom? Then it became exciting. We got to do something none of us ever dreamed of doing: We got to end a series and start a new series in 20 minutes."

"He was a great friend and partner for eight years. And every time he got himself into trouble, we believed that there was healing that was going to come. I certainly believed that sobriety is something that he wants in his life, and I was wrong."

"We intervened all the time. I was so afraid my friend was going to die. When we would shoot a show on a Friday night, there was always that 'I'll see you Monday. I hope.' The holidays were the worst, because those long stretches of time were the ones we feared the most."

“You couldn't do that much cocaine and work. It was falling apart. It was heartbreaking to be around here then.”

"There was a tragedy unfolding right in front of us. There was violence and blackouts. On a certain level, if you're looking the other way, you're responsible."

"Bottom line, I hope he's happy, I hope he's healthy. I hope he's able to be there for his kids."



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movies

‘The Artist’ piles up noms

Reuters

“The Artist” and “Hugo” led nominations for Hollywood’s Critics’ Choice Awards on Tuesday, in a key week that will firm up the field of likely Oscar contenders.

The silent film and the animated movie—both love letters to the early days of the movie industry—notched 11 nominations, including best film and for their directors Michel Hazanavicius (“The Artist”) and Martin Scorsese (“Hugo”).

Summer sleeper box-office hit “The Help” and action movie “Drive” starring Ryan Gosling followed with eight nominations apiece, while the George Clooney family drama “The Descendants” and director Steven Spielberg’s upcoming family movie, “War Horse,” both garnered seven.

All four also landed among the 10 nominees for best film.

Clooney, Brad Pitt (“Moneyball”) and Viola Davis (“The Help”) were among acting nominees, along with Meryl Streep for her performance as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in “The Iron Lady,” and Michelle Williams’ turn as Marilyn Monroe in “My Week with Marilyn.”

The nominations were announced by the



Broadcast Film Critics Association. They come as Hollywood’s awards season heats up with the Screen Actors Guild announcing its picks Wednesday for the best movie performances of 2011, and Thursday’s Golden Globe nominations.

The early nominations help narrow the field for the actors, directors and writers likely to compete for the Academy Awards. Oscar nominations are due Jan. 24 and the awards will be presented Feb. 26.

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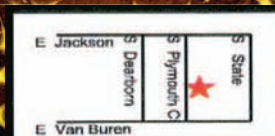
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Fortune Street *Wii*
In our current political climate, creating a greed-is-good, Monopoly-like board game might seem a little out of touch for Nintendo. Then again, it's hard to feel like you're being shady when you're playing with the cast of "Mario Bros." and "Donkey Kong." There's actually a lot to like from the die-rolling, asset-accumulating gameplay of "Fortune Street"—which serves to make the original "Monopoly" feel like a snooze in comparison.

THREE TO PLAY

BY RYAN SMITH | FOR REDEYE



Kung Fu High Impact

*XB360
Kinect*

Most action titles put gamers into the

roles of a muscled hero or super cool badass, but what makes "Kung Fu High Impact" so amusing is that it literally makes you the star. Using the Kinect accessory, the game puts your camera-captured form into the game, where you punch and kick and leap your way through a host of evil ninjas and giants. The gimmick fades fast, and it only takes a couple hours to beat, but "Kung Fu High Impact" is frantic, sweaty fun while it lasts.



Tekken Hybrid

PS3

As its name suggests, "Tekken Hybrid" is sort of a curious grab bag of re-makes of old Tekken games, bonus modes and a full-length movie. It includes a HD remake of "Tekken Tag Tournament" from the PlayStation 2; "Tekken Bowling," a preview of an

upcoming game in the series; and the animated movie "Blood Vengeance." If you're a big fighting game fan, "Tekken Hybrid" is a steal at the budget title price of \$40, but otherwise you might want to sit this round out. **RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR**

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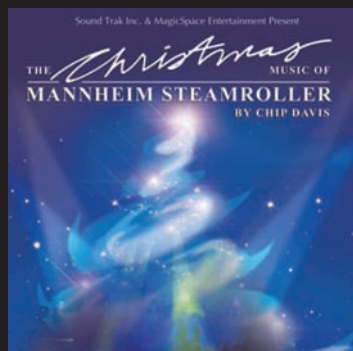


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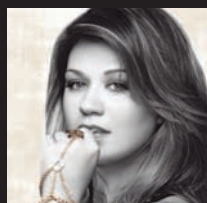
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January 14



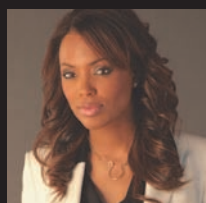
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VICTORIA'S SECRET SUPERMODEL ADRIANA LIMA WALKING DOWN THE RUNWAY AT THE VICTORIA'S SECRET FASHION SHOW
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IDEAS FOR HOME

A drier O'Brien?

Designer Thomas O'Brien's Vintage Modern towel collection for Target has long been a go-to for the design- and value-conscious crowd. The palette of gender neutral, menswear-inflected colors matched O'Brien's classic aesthetic, and the bathroom tiles. Now Target has a new, improved O'Brien towel, in stores and online at target.com for about \$10 per towel. The new fabric won us over: still thick and thirsty, but a denser, softer version of his old towels. After repeated trips through the wash, the towels still looked fresh and were just as soft, though we did see a snag or two. As advertised, they didn't get quite as soggy as our old towels, and dried a little quicker. Target says this is all due to a special high-tech cotton yarn. **TRIBUNE, BILL HOGAN/TRIBUNE PHOTO**



Bring home Bollywood

It's editing in the extreme: Bollywood movie posters sliced up and stitched back together as art-house wallpaper. That's the essence of Cinema Posters, a new wallpaper design from Weitzner. Seen from afar, Cinema Posters looks like a seemingly random configuration of saturated colors. Up close, the wallpaper is surprisingly soothing as bits of imagery—an eyelash here, credit text there—come into focus. The caveats: Because the material is recycled paper and is not stain resistant, Cinema Posters are not recommended for areas with moisture, and if placed in direct sunlight it is expected to fade. The design is sold through the trade, meaning an interior designer will need to price the material for you through a Weitzner representative at weitznerlimited.com. **TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS**

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10am - 6pm

100 W Randolph St
**Please see booth for details.

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Robata grills

If you didn't learn the name of this charcoal-fired Japanese grill when Chizakaya opened in Lakeview last year, then you did in 2011, when five other restaurants fired up their robatas: Union Sushi & Barbeque Bar, Roka Akor Steak & Sushi and Slurping Turtle in River North, plus **Yuzu Sushi & Robata Grill** in West Town and Yusho in Logan Square.

Pop-ups

Pop-up restaurants—temporary ventures that disappear as quickly as they set up camp—caught on this year in Chicago. Chefs used pop-ups to preview an upcoming restaurant (Matt Eversman's one-night dinner at Bistro Voltaire), expand on a successful catering biz (The Rice Table's residence at Bia for Mia) or give dinner a try at a breakfast-and-lunch restaurant (African and Argentinean nights at Dodo).

Southern comfort bar food

From the **deviled eggs at The Barrelhouse Flat** (and everywhere else) to fried pickles and cornbread at Barn & Company and the soon-to-open Derby, bar food has taken a decidedly Southern twist. We understand wanting to bring a little bit of that down-home flavor to the big city, but sometimes our grandmothers still do it best.



7 IN '11

ROBATAS, FOOD TRUCKS & POP-UPS, OH MY!

By Lisa Arnett and Emily Van Zandt

REDEYE

Bacon starred in 2008. In 2010, we went gaga for Stephanie Izard's Girl & the Goat. Though 2011 may go down in history as the year you spent an obscene amount of time trying to get tickets to Next while you were supposed to be working, Grant Achatz's restaurant isn't all that made it a notable year in dining and nightlife. **LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS**



Overly lavish concepts

It's not that we don't want to love Dose Market, the monthly mashup of artisanal food/indie fashion/letterpress cards/moustaches at River East Arts Center. But can we really afford to pay a \$10 entry fee to buy a \$300 leather and canvas clutch right now? Certainly not after the required bottle service at Studio Paris (above) and \$130 seafood tower at Maude's Liquor Bar. **JASON LITTLE FILE PHOTO FOR REDEYE**

Wine on tap

Watch your back, beer. Lower prices, longer shelf life and less packaging waste are just a few of the reasons owners have hopped on the wine-on-tap trend this year. Drink up at Paris Club, Bar Toma or Farmhouse in River North, just to name a few.



Food trucks

This year, the city's food truck pioneers celebrated their first anniversaries and dozens more rolled onto the streets. Though a city law forbidding on-board

cooking has kept the scene from blowing up as it has in other cities, you still can get any number of snacks—tacos, macarons, sliders, falafel, bao—on wheels. Plus, local trucks proudly represented Chicago on Food Network TV shows too, with The Southern Mac Truck on "The Great Food Truck Race" and Sweet Ride (above) on "Cupcake Wars."

Twitter

From **Grant Achatz** announcing the opening date of Next to **Doughnut Vault** tweeting the length of its line (not to mention food truck-tracking and chef vs. blogger fights that distracted us for entire afternoons), 2011 was the year Twitter went big for local restaurants and bars.



IN

Banh mi shops

Thanks to a second location of Uptown's Ba Le in Chinatown, Toni Patisserie & Cafe in the Loop plus Bun Mi Express and Banh Mi & Co. in Lakeview, we have even more places to pick up one of these delish Vietnamese sandwiches.

Craft cocktail bars

Let them invade every neighborhood.

Fancy BYOBs

The multi-course tasting menus at Goosefoot, a BYOB,

Oysters

Shellfish takeover! From GT Fish & Oyster to Fish Bar (above).

challenges us to do better than our usual \$15 quick-grab at the corner liquor store.

Old-school butchers

From Butcher & Larder to Butcher & The Burger to all the buzz about Paul Kahan's Publican Quality Meats (hopefully opening next year in the West Loop).

Vegan options

It's nice to have more choices, from the vegan dishes at Northdown to Native Foods Cafe.



OUT

Pork belly

Too much of a good thing?

Self-serve froyo

These shops multiplied like bunnies this year.

Everything-to-everyone menus

Makes us feel like we're at a version of the Cheesecake Factory.

Metal chairs

After Big Star (above) started the trend by outfitting its patio with these retro metal chairs last summer, other spots followed suit (See: Pleasant House, Maude's Liquor Bar, Magnolia Bakery, Deuces & the Diamond Club). P.S.

They're not that comfortable.

METROMIX FILE PHOTO



Mason jar cocktails
Forced kitsch at its finest.



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IN THEATRES DECEMBER 21
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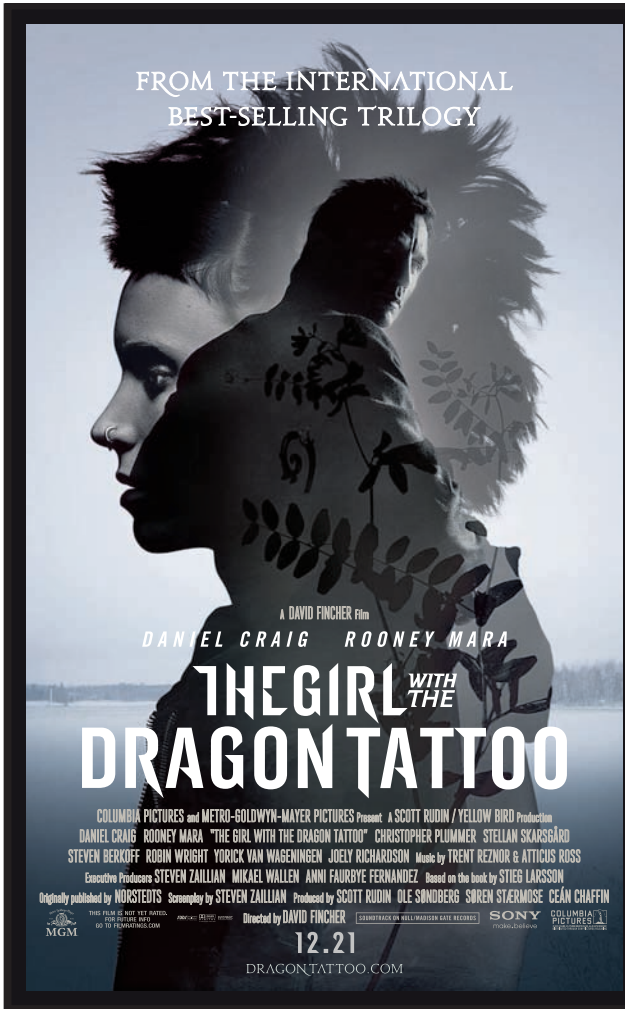
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*No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Once 100 admit-one passes have been redeemed, this giveaway will be closed. Employees of the RedEye, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Columbia Pictures and their immediate families are not eligible. Please refer to screening passes for all other restrictions. This film has been rated "R" by the MPAA for brutal violent content including rape and torture, strong sexuality, graphic nudity and language.

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

Handicapped Access ♦ Digital Sound ✓ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes ♫ Hearing - Impaired
G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)
600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily ♿

- **Tower Heist** (PG-13) 3:50, 6:40, 9:15
- **The Ides of March** (R) 2:00, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 3:40, 6:50, 9:30
- **Hugo** (PG) 3:30 P.M.
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 4:45, 9:40
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:10, 7:20
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 6:30, 9:25
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 2:25, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 2:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
- **The Sitter** (R) 2:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)
2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Shame** (NC-17) 1:40, 2:45, 4:05, 5:10, 6:45, 7:40, 9:15, 10:10
- **The Descendants** (R) 1:20, 2:00, 3:55, 4:40, 6:40, 7:20, 9:20, 10:00
- **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30
- **Melancholia** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
- **The Skin I Live In** (R) 4:10, 10:05
- **Martha Marcy May Marlene** (R) 1:35, 7:35

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **The Sitter** (R) 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:20
- **Hugo** (PG) 7:30, 10:30
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 11:45, 1:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:20, 5:00, 5:50, 7:20, 8:00, 8:45, 10:20, 11:00
- **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Advance Tickets Available
- **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- **Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- **A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas** (R) 11:30 P.M.
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 11:10
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 3:45, 10:00
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 3:00, 8:10
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:40, 1:50, 2:30, 4:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:35
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 1:30, 7:10
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 12:20, 5:30, 10:50
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 12:10, 3:10, 6:00, 9:15
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 4:10, 9:45
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) (Open captioned) 12:45, 7:00
- **The Sitter** (R) 11:30, 1:40, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **The Descendants** (R) 4:45, 7:20, 9:45
- **The Muppets** (PG) 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- **J. Edgar** (R) 4:15, 7:00, 9:50

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 1:15, 5:55, 10:35
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 10:50, 3:35, 8:20
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:25, 2:10, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15
- **Hugo** (PG) 10:25, 1:15, 4:10, 6:55, 9:50
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 10:40, 1:30, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 10:40, 1:25, 3:55, 6:45, 9:20
- **Pastorela** (R) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:25
- **The Greatest Miracle 3D** (NR) 5:00 P.M.
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 1:30, 7:25
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 10:35, 4:20, 9:45
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 10:30, 11:10, 1:25, 2:00, 4:35, 5:05, 7:40, 8:10, 10:25
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
- **The Sitter** (R) 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05
- **The Muppets** (PG) 10:55, 1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10:05
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
(312) 846-2800

- **The Nutcracker Ballet in HD** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **Silent Souls** (NR) 6:15 P.M.
- **The Guard** (R) 7:45 P.M.
- **Everyday Sunshine: The Story of Fishbone** (NR) 8:30 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

Call theatre for show information

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **Raiders of the Lost Ark** (PG) 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
- **Young Goethe in Love** (NR) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

THE PATIO THEATER
6008 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 685-4291

- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 7:30

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- **Tower Heist** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55
- **Young Adult** (R) 11:15, 12:00, 12:45, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9:15, 10:00, 10:45
- **Moneyball** (PG-13) 11:10, 5:10, 10:55
- **AMC Independent Like Crazy** (PG-13) 7:35, 10:05
- **The Ides of March** (R) 2:20, 8:25
- **AMC Independent The Descendants** (R) 11:35, 1:20, 2:30, 4:20, 5:20, 7:15, 8:15, 10:15, 11:00
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
- **AMC Independent My Week With Marilyn** (R) 11:10, 1:40, 4:05, 6:40, 9:20
- **J. Edgar** (R) 11:05, 2:15, 5:25, 8:40
- **Hugo** (PG) 1:20, 4:25
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 11:20, 2:20, 5:25, 8:25
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:35, 5:45, 8:20, 8:35
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00
- **The Sitter** (R) 11:45, 1:10, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:10, 7:10, 8:25, 9:25, 10:40
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:45, 1:40, 2:40, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 10:30
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 11:50, 2:05, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG) 12:20, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
- **Tower Heist** (PG-13) 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 12:35, 3:10, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55
- **A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas** (R) 10:30 P.M.
- **AMC Independent The Descendants** (R) 1:05, 3:55, 7:00, 10:05
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 12:55, 3:45, 6:50, 9:40
- **AMC Independent My Week With Marilyn** (R) 12:00, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:35
- **J. Edgar** (R) 2:55 P.M.
- **Hugo** (PG) 12:45, 6:40
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 3:50, 9:50
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 2:05, 4:55, 7:45
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:40
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 1:10, 4:25, 7:30, 10:40
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:35, 7:40, 10:45
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:50, 5:50, 8:50
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
- **The Sitter** (R) 1:00, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 2:10, 8:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 5:05, 10:55
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:10, 10:50

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **The Sitter** (R) 12:10, 1:10, 2:30, 3:30, 4:50, 5:50, 6:40, 7:10, 8:10, 9:00, 10:30
- **Hugo** (PG) 4:20, 10:10
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 4:45, 9:35
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 12:00, 1:00, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50, 5:20, 6:30, 7:20, 8:00, 9:10, 10:40
- **Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked** (G) Advance Tickets Available
- **Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- **Mission: Impossible -- Ghost Protocol** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
- **J. Edgar** (R) 12:25, 3:45, 6:50, 10:05
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:35
- **The Muppets** (PG) 12:40, 1:20, 3:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 9:50 P.M.
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 12:30, 3:20, 6:20, 9:15
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:10, 7:15

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Tower Heist** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 2:40, 7:10
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 4:55, 9:25
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:15
- **Hugo** (PG) 4:05, 9:35
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:15
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:05
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 2:30, 5:25, 8:15
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:40, 7:35, 9:30, 10:20
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00
- **The Sitter** (R) 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
- **The Muppets** (PG) 1:25, 2:25, 5:15, 6:55, 8:00, 10:35
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 1:05, 3:25, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)
4779 W. Cermak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Tower Heist** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:25, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30
- **Puss in Boots** (PG) 3:10, 8:30
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 8:05, 10:40
- **Hugo** (PG) 12:20, 5:30, 10:35
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 12:10, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55
- **Happy Feet Two** (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
- **Pastorela** (R) 1:20, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 12:00, 1:25, 2:35, 4:25, 5:10, 7:10, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25
- **The Sitter** (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
- **The Muppets** (PG) 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
- **Jack and Jill** (PG) 1:35, 4:00, 6:20, 8:45

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104

- **Immortals 3D** (R) 2:10, 5:10, 7:50, 10:55
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 12:40, 1:30, 3:50, 4:30, 6:50, 7:20, 9:40, 10:30
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:20
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 12:50, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
- **The Sitter** (R) ★ 12:40, 2:30, 3:20, 5:00, 6:10, 7:40, 8:40, 10:15, 11:10
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) ★ 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- **The Muppets** (PG) 1:10, 3:40, 6:30, 9:10
- **Tower Heist** (PG) (Closed caption) 2:20, 5:15, 8:10, 11:00
- **J. Edgar** (R) (Closed caption) 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40
- **The Descendants** (R) 1:20, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50
- **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45

VIP Premium 21+ 12:40

- **The Sitter** (R) ★ VIP Premium 21+ 12:40, 3:20
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) ★ VIP Premium 21+ 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560

- **The Descendants** (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
- **J. Edgar** (R) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
- **Hugo** (PG) 3:45
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 1:00, 6:30, 9:15
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) ★ 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35
- **The Muppets** (PG) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

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- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 11:40, 2:35, 5:30, 8:25
- **J. Edgar** (R) 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20
- **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1** (PG-13) 12:00, 1:25, 2:50, 4:15, 5:40, 7:05, 8:30, 9:50
- **Arthur Christmas** (PG) 12:05
- **Hugo** (PG) 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
- **The Muppets** (PG) 11:35, 1:00, 2:15, 3:35, 4:50, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 10:00
- **The Sitter** (R) 11:10, 12:25, 1:30, 2:40, 3:45, 4:55, 6:00, 7:10, 8:15, 9:25, 10:30
- **New Year's Eve** (PG-13) 11:20, 12:45, 2:10, 3:30, 5:00, 6:25, 7:50, 9:15, 10:40
- **The Descendants** (R) 11:15, 12:35, 2:00, 3:20, 4:45, 6:05, 7:30, 8:50, 10:15
- **Like Crazy** (PG-13) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10
- **My Week With Marilyn** (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:25
- **Puss in Boots 3D** (PG) 11:25, 4:20, 9:20
- **Immortals 3D** (R) 11:30, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:35
- **Happy Feet Two 3D** (PG) 1:50, 6:50
- **Arthur Christmas 3D** (PG) 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05



BAR-GUMENTS

SETTLING AGE-OLD, BAR-BASED DISAGREEMENTS ONE ARGUMENT AT A TIME

Go to a Starbucks sometime next year and you may see something a little stronger on the drinks menu: Beer and wine. In Chicago, Starbucks Coffee Co. plans to open up to seven locations by the end of 2012 that will sell alcohol, according to the Tribune. The company has been testing the concept for a few years in Seattle, and results have been positive. But will Chicagoans give up their after-work dives and restaurant lounges for a cold one served up by a barista?

This week: Would you drink a beer at Starbucks?

YEP

Chris Sosa

CHSOSA@TRIBUNE.COM
@SAYITISSOSA



VS



NOPE

Mick Swasko

MSWASKO@TRIBUNE.COM
@MICKSWASKO

Two ways to get buzzed in one location? That's a win-win in my book. I drink coffee only occasionally, though I know plenty of people who need it like plants crave sunlight. So I'm all for indulging in a craft brew at Starbucks while my friends get their caffeine fix. You can't tell me it's more outlandish than paying \$5 for coffee. I wouldn't be mad at Starbucks if it offered its own coffee stout, either.

Have you ever gone to Noodles & Company and seen the one dude in the corner who ordered the bottle of wine with his mac and cheese? Yeah, grabbing a beer at Starbucks is going to make you that guy (or girl). I've got no qualms with the 'Bucks, but the phrase "hey, beer time on Friday!" Let's go to the place that also serves non-fat Chai tea lattes" should never be uttered.

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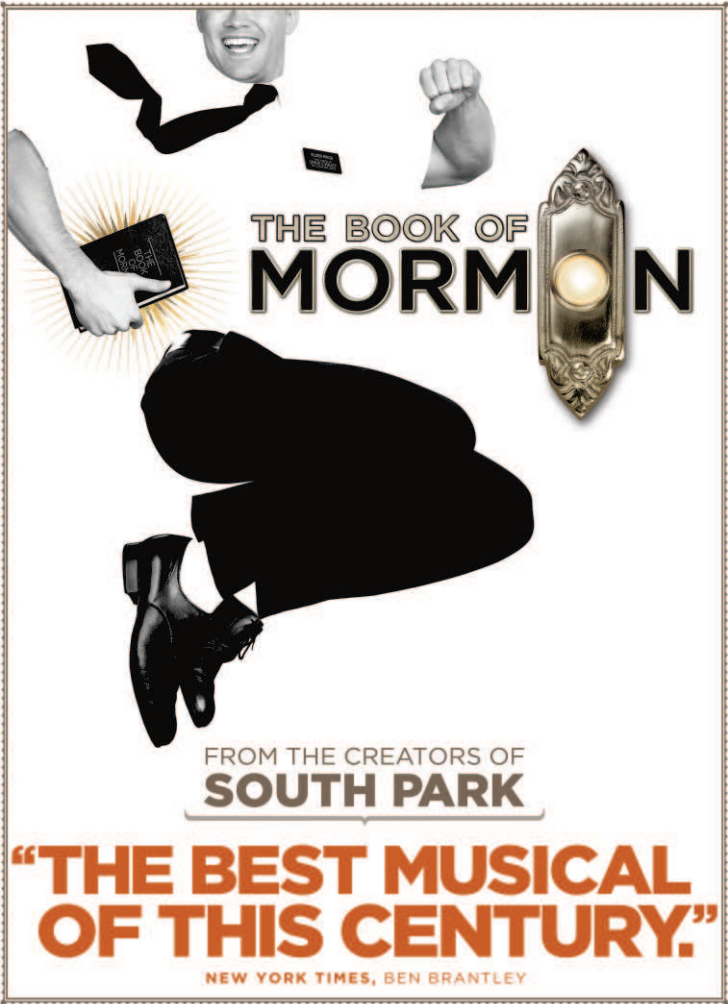
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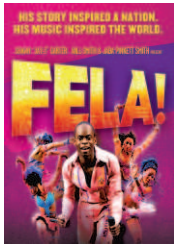
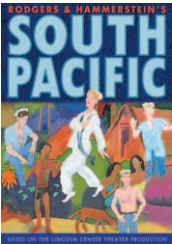


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It may be mid-December, but that's not going to stop us from putting umbrellas in our drinks, grooving to beach music and getting in the pool party mood before the evening's performance of *Penelope*. **Caffeine Theatre** curates a cabaret of poetry, spoken word and drama surrounding the world of *Penelope*. To close out the event, hip-hop duo **The Q-Brothers** (creators of *Funk it Up About Nothin'*) will share a new original work, inspired by *Penelope*. Put on a shocking speedo—if you dare—and join Steppenwolf, Caffeine Theatre and The Q-Brothers for an evening of *Penelope*, remixed.

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What goes better with holiday shows than seasonal pours?

By Julia Borcherts

FOR REDEYE

We know ... it's supposed to be all about glad tidings. And seeing a holiday-themed show—especially one with a lighter theme—can help ease you into the seasonal whirlwind. But sometimes, finding comfort and joy in the midst of holiday madness translates into finding a stiff drink. To that end, we've found shows that brighten your spirits with a few laughs—and some literal spirits too.

JULIA BORCHERTS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



The Santaland Diaries

The show: Local actor Mitchell Fain serves up humor and cynicism in equal parts when he dons striped tights to play Crumpet in this adaptation of David Sedaris' tale of his bizarre experiences and struggling to maintain dignity as a Macy's Christmas elf. This year, Theater Wit introduces more intimate staging and a new set, and Fain performs a Jewish Christmas Eve show complete with a Chinese buffet dinner.

The cocktail: Crumpet's Cosmo (currant vodka and cranberry and lime juices with splashes of cider and—you guessed it—bitters), \$8

Go: Through Dec. 31 at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: \$18; \$55 for Dec. 24 performance; 773-975-8150; theaterwit.org

TIDINGS OF CHEER

Classic TV Re-Runs! The Season of Sin

The show: For a campy twist on tradition, A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Company highlights "The Sin of Commercialism" with staged readings of scripts from classic TV episodes including "Seinfeld: The Strike;" "30 Rock: Secret Santa;" "The O.C.: The Best Christmukkah Ever" and a short-short called "The Colbert Report: Five Minutes of Passover."

The cocktail: Mary's Christmas Ale (home-brewed with cinnamon, cloves, allspice, ginger and orange), \$3.75 per pint for showgoers (regularly \$4.75)

Go: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Tickets: \$10; 773-418-4475; arftco.com

Oprah! A Comedy! Live Your Best Laugh" and "Fa La La F#@% It

The shows: A double-bill of ho-ho-hos for your holidays: In "Oprah," the ghost of Christmas past arrives in the form of the first Mayor Daley, who refuses to let the talk show queen leave Chicago. In "Fa La La," a woman attempts—and fails—to get her family's issues under control while coping with seasonal stress.

The cocktail: Annoyance Mistletoe (green creme de menthe, vodka, Sprite and a splash of grenadine), \$3

Go: Through Feb. 3 ("Oprah"); through Dec. 23 ("Fa La La") at The Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway

Tickets: \$15 for "Fa La La; \$20 for "Oprah" 773-561-4665; theannoyance.com

A Christmas Carol

The show: Sometimes, you just can't beat tradition. And the Goodman's adaptation of Dickens' classic Christmas tale of bitterness and redemption—which features actors flying across the stage, live music and dancing, and popular local actor Larry Yando as Ebenezer Scrooge—has been a Chicago tradition for more than 30 years.

The cocktail: Scrooge's Brew (vanilla vodka, creme de cacao and half and half), \$7

Go: Through Dec. 31 at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: \$25-\$80; 312-443-3800; goodmantheatre.org

Oops! I Christmased Again: A Britney Spears Christmas Carol

The show: For a completely different take on the Dickens classic, a character portraying pop princess Spears learns the true meaning of Christmas from three visiting spirits—Madonna, Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber—in this over-the-top satire that also features a send-up of everyone's favorite centerfold, Lindsay Lohan.

The cocktail: Oops Nog (a holiday egg nog spiked with your choice of rum, bourbon or whiskey and powdered cinnamon), \$5

Go: Midnight Fridays through Dec. 30 at ComedySportz, 929 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: \$10; 773-549-8080; comedysportzchicago.com

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Merry holidays for cats and dogs

Tribune Newspapers

Poinsettias are the one holiday item that most often gets a bad rap for being dangerous to pets. How's this for a helping of holiday irony: Although the plant's sap can irritate the mouth of a dog or cat (and should be kept out of their reach), these plants are less dangerous than many holiday staples, say the veterinarians at the VRCC Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital in Colorado.



» Mistletoe, especially the berries, are extremely toxic to pets; the most severe cases can cause low blood pressure, stumbling and even seizures. Likewise, the website of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (aspc.org) notes that holly and many lilies can be added to the list of bad-for-pets plants. Here are more items from the ASPCA and VRCC that can pose a serious holiday hazard for your four-legged friends—not to mention a costly vet's bill.

» Liquid potpourri: The spicy smell can create a wonderful scent, but pets exposed to the liquid form can experience irritation and corrosion of the eyes, mouth, throat and esophagus.

» Tinsel, glass ornaments, spray-on snow/flocking, foil, plastic wrap/shrink-wrap, plastic foam peanuts and ribbon all can be life-threatening if consumed by your pet. Whether lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines, these items can cause a variety of symptoms and may land a pet in the operating room.

» Christmas tree food/preservatives: If you have a live tree, the VRCC says that sugar-based tree preservatives or plant food in the tree stand can harbor dangerous bacteria; a thirsty dog or cat may decide to use the tree stand as a drinking bowl. Stick with fresh water, and change it frequently; stagnant tree water can have bacteria too.

» Batteries: They're a year-round danger but it's common to have more of them around, either for toys or holiday equipment. Chewing or swallowing batteries is extremely toxic for pets. Acid burns from chewing and causing a leak in the battery are common, as are cuts from the metal casing. Smaller batteries also can be swallowed, which can lead to internal burns and removal surgery.



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Alec Baldwin
REUTERS

Fight attendants

CNN

NBC's "30 Rock" lost some flight attendant fans after Alec Baldwin was kicked off an American Airlines flight when he refused to turn off his phone.

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants requested Tuesday that the airline remove the show from all flights after last week's incident at Los Angeles International Airport.

Baldwin was booted off the flight because he refused to turn off his cellphone after the plane's doors were closed for departure, the airline said.

The actor apparently was playing "Words With Friends" on his smartphone.

"We fully support the flight attendants and the way they handled the situation," spokesman Jeff Pharr said. "The crew responded as they have been thoroughly trained to do so by the FAA as safety professionals onboard the aircraft."

Pharr added that the union would retract its petition if Baldwin issued an apology to the attendants.

"30 Rock," meanwhile, continues to air on some American Airline flights in accordance with its standard programming procedures, airline spokesman Tim Smith said.

The actor mocked American Airlines over the weekend during a cameo appearance on "Saturday Night Live," issuing an apology to himself while dressed as airline "Capt. Steve Rogers."

“We fully support the flight attendants and the way they handled the situation”

—Jeff Pharr, American Airlines spokesman

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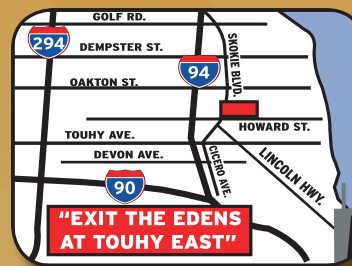


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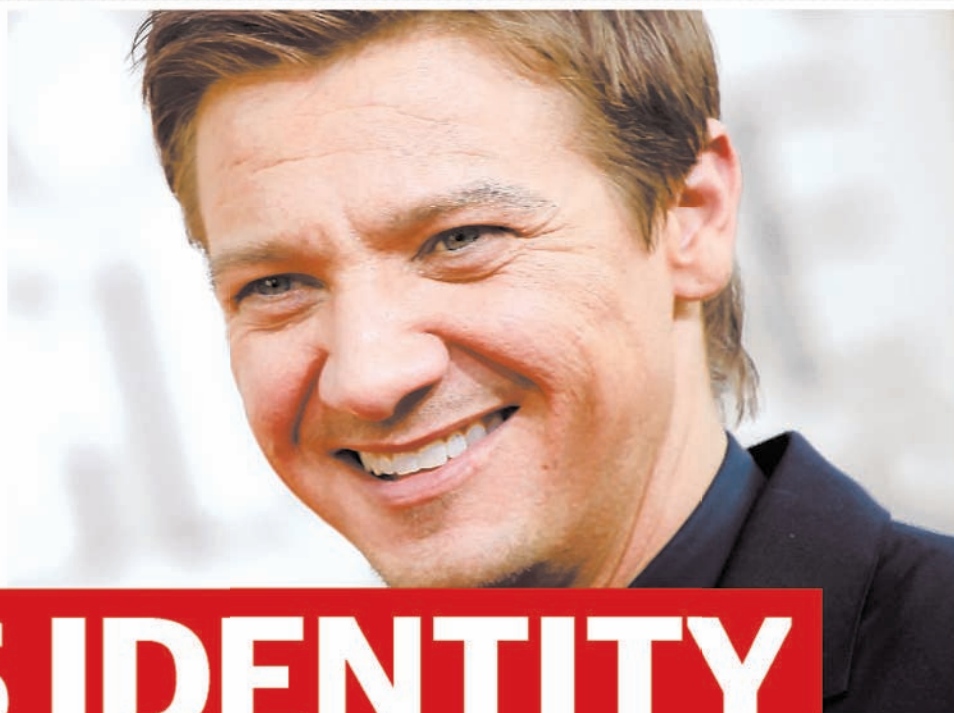
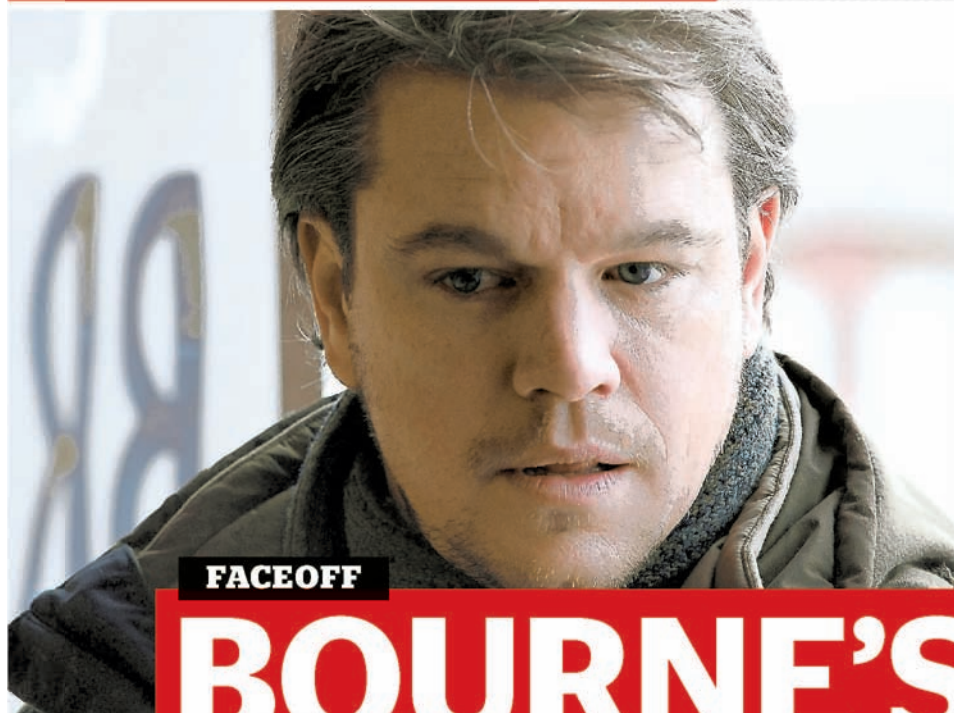


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whoville

See them in...

Matt's currently starring in "We Bought a Zoo" with Scarlett Johansson and a zoo, and Jeremy's "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol," with Tom Cruise and the Burj Khalifa tower, opens Dec. 21.



FACEOFF

BOURNE'S IDENTITY

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Matt Damon may have cut his leading-man action teeth as Jason Bourne in "The Bourne Identity," but after three flicks, the two have broken up. Or, rather, Matt found out via the Web that Jeremy Renner was stepping in as a new lead character for "The Bourne Legacy," according to the January issue of GQ. Was Matt getting too old to be Bourne, or will Jeremy fall on his face as new guy Aaron Cross? There's just one way to decide: a faceoff. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | [@REDEYEDANA](https://twitter.com/REDEYEDANA)

MATT DAMON

JEREMY RENNER

He's been an awfully imposing Bourne but lately has been drawing more attention for his mustache as LaBoeuf in "True Grit."



BRAWN



We got a pretty nice glimpse of his guns in "The Hurt Locker," and we liked what we saw. "Mission: Impossible" will be a nice snack if they show up.

WINNER: JEREMY. Dude played a guy who de-activated bombs in "The Hurt Locker." What could be manlier?

Spent four years at Hahvahd, even though he didn't graduate. Although if his character from "Good Will Hunting" is to be taken as true to life, Matt's pretty smart.



BRAINS



Hmm ... Jeremy hit up Modesto Junior College for some higher ed. That's almost Harvard, right?

WINNER: MATT. Word is Harvard doesn't let just anybody in.



Jimmy Kimmel. Their "feud" began in '06 and went in '08's "I'm [Bleeping] Matt Damon" with Kimmel's then-girlfriend, Sarah Silverman. She is no longer [bleeping] Jimmy Kimmel.



KNOWN ENEMIES



Ben Affleck. Their "feud" is contained to "The Town," in which Jeremy's badass bank robber got on main dude Ben's last nerve ... and it didn't prove to be a good move.

WINNER: JEREMY. Having Ben for an enemy also means having Matt for an enemy, and they make a terrifying team.



Other than having fake sex with Sarah Silverman? He played Tina Fey's pilot boyfriend on "30 Rock" and might be just as goofy as Jon Hamm in



CAPERS



Apparently he brushed his teeth in a Starbucks one time. Oh, you wild thing.

WINNER: MATT. Jeremy seems to be tamer than we thought.

Well, we wouldn't even be having this faceoff if it weren't for Matt finding out that Jeremy was taking the lead in "The Bourne Legacy," now would we?



DOUBLE-CROSSING INCIDENTS



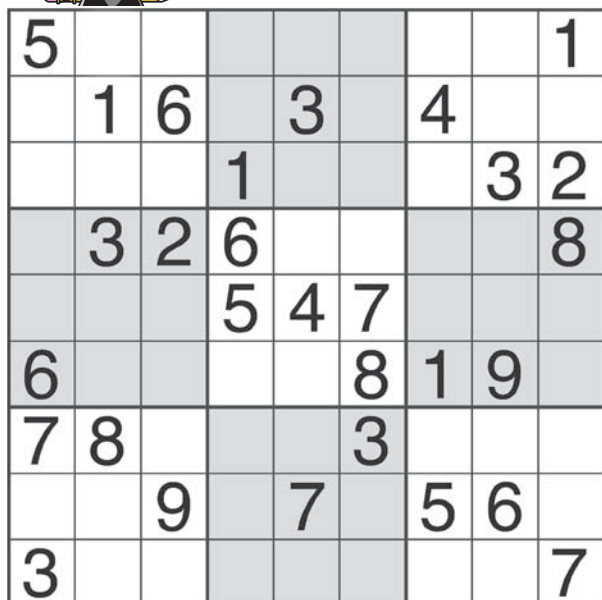
While he has a role in the new "Mission: Impossible" flick, Jeremy had predicted in 2010 that he might take over for Tom Cruise. Looks like that didn't happen.

WINNER: MATT. Finding out on the Internet that you've been replaced is totally bush league.

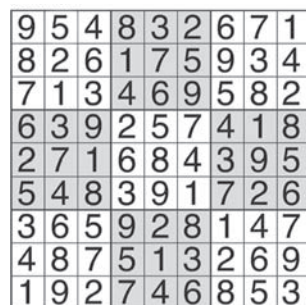
OVERALL WINNER

MATT. Nothing quite like the original.

SOURCES: IMDB.COM, PEOPLE.COM



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

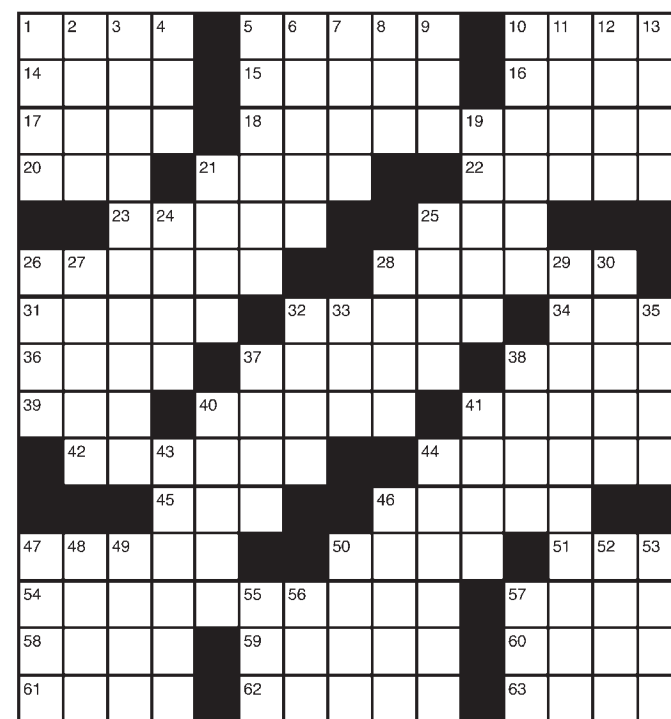


ACROSS

- 1 Coat or shawl
- 5 Bird bills
- 10 Likelihood
- 14 King's vestment
- 15 "Little Orphan _"
- 16 Actress Garr
- 17 "... old cowhand from the Rio..."
- 18 Imprint at the top of business stationery
- 20 Four and six
- 21 Charitable gifts
- 22 Row of shrubs
- 23 Rot
- 25 Man's title
- 26 Drunk
- 28 "... and Gretel"
- 31 "... over; delivers
- 32 Spanish friend
- 34 Get-up-and-go
- 36 Heron's cousin
- 37 Escapes
- 38 Whitecap, e.g.
- 39 Prefix with stop or specific
- 40 Actress Sally
- 41 Less colorful
- 42 Female monster
- 44 Hoodwink
- 45 Ooh and _; express delight
- 46 Hooded jacket
- 47 Tips one's hat in respect
- 50 In the _; healthy
- 51 Facial twitch
- 54 Joined to no one
- 57 One of Michael Jackson's brothers
- 58 Highest point
- 59 Cost
- 60 "Do _ others..."
- 61 Malicious look
- 62 Mary _ Moore
- 63 Personalities

DOWN

- 1 Legal order
- 2 Italy's capital
- 3 Deserting
- 4 Writing instrument
- 5 Romantic song



- 6 Foe
- 7 Crawling bugs
- 8 Doctor's bag
- 9 Look at
- 10 Significant _; partners
- 11 Owner's paper
- 12 Boring situation
- 13 Faction
- 19 Huge horned beast
- 21 Experts
- 24 Finishes
- 25 Droops
- 26 Part of the leg
- 27 Forbidden
- 28 Hurried
- 29 Analyzing and rating
- 30 Dwelt
- 32 Frothy drinks
- 33 Ferrer or Blanc
- 35 French mother
- 37 Trout or turbot
- 38 ... off with; steal
- 40 Banquet
- 41 Make coffee
- 43 Roof beam
- 44 Temper; anger
- 46 Portion
- 47 Twofold
- 48 In the past
- 49 Renown
- 50 Hockey's _ Esposito
- 52 "Tell _ the marines!"
- 53 Pigeon sounds
- 55 Likely
- 56 Sob
- 57 Weekday; abbr.

TODAY IN THE YEAR...

1993: A Colorado judge struck down as unconstitutional the state's voter-approved ban on gay rights laws.

1999: Charles Schulz announced he was retiring the "Peanuts" comic strip.

2001: George O'Leary resigned as Notre Dame football coach five days after being hired, admitting he had lied about his academic and athletic background.

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redeyechicago.com

What's the word in Chicago right now?

red hot

OUCH!

Rooney Mara definitely got into character for "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." You also could say the character got into her—with real piercings of her eyebrow and nipple. "[The nipple piercing] was actually not that painful," she told *Allure* magazine. "Everyone thinks that would be the most painful." In other "Dragon Tattoo" news, the studio has moved up the movie's release one day to Tuesday, thr.com reports.



Mumford & Sons

Musical math

Mumford & Sons may be on tour, but the band already is thinking about the next album. "[It's] certainly more mature, I'd say," bassist Ted Dwane told rollingstone.com. "The second record is just a reflection of our mindsets, where we're all at. It's doom folk, kind of like Black Sabbath meets Nick Drake." Oh, please say Ozzy Osbourne makes an appearance on the new record!

Rooney Mara
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



“After years of being steered in the wrong direction by bribed concierges, biased opinions and just plain bad suggestions, I decided to create what I had been missing: The goop City Guide!”

—**Gwyneth Paltrow**, in the latest Goop newsletter, about an app she's launched. Sorry, Chicagoans with fussy tastes. The \$3.99 app is available as a guide only to NYC—for now.

HOT DATE

FEB. 25

That's when **Seth Rogen** will host the Film Independent Spirit Awards, which will air on the IFC network, thr.com reports. The totally indie awards are held on the beach in Santa Monica, Calif.



'COLOR' COORDINATION

With Fox reviving "In Living Color" for two specials in 2012, it's going to need some comics. What better place to find them than Chicago, home of the best improv comedy in the country? Jamie Masada, owner of the Laugh Factory, is teaming with Fox to host open casting calls for "In Living Color" at Chicago's new Laugh Factory, 3175 N. Broadway, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday. Call the Laugh Factory at 773-327-3175 for more info.

STAGE MIGHT

Behold the power of 360 degrees. U2 and its futuristic claw stage had—by far—the most profitable tour of the year, **billboard.com** reports. Here are the year's Top 5, based on gross earnings.

1. U2, \$293,281,487, 44 shows
2. Bon Jovi, \$192,947,951, 68 shows
3. Take That, \$185,175,360, 29 shows
4. Roger Waters, \$149,904,965, 92 shows
5. **Taylor Swift**, \$97,368,416, 89 shows



Bono

